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ABSTRACT

The appeal of the novel "The Red Badge of Courage" is both historical and universal. It is historical in its Civil War setting and universal in its relating of the experiences of a young man who is thrust into a situation he does not understand and cannot cope with. This collection of historical documents, collateral readings, and commentary will promote interdisciplinary study of the novel and enrich the reader's understanding of its themes and historical context. A wide variety of more than 40 primary documents and firsthand accounts brings to life the Civil War experiences of leaders and soldiers of the Union and the Confederacy, especially in the Battle of Chancellorsville, which is the setting for the novel. Each section of the casebook contains study questions, topics for research papers and class discussions, and lists of further reading. A selection of photos and maps complete the casebook. The casebook is divided into the following sections: Introduction; A Literary Analysis: Initiation or Irony?; The Civil War Setting of the Novel; Desertion in "The Red Badge of Courage"; The Battlefield and Its Effects; The Soldier's Life in Camp; and "The Red Badge of Courage" as an Antiwar Novel. (NKA)

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